Motor Freight Firm Said 2-Year Victim

9 Arrested in N.O. Theft Ring

District Attorney Jim Garrison today announced the arrests of nine persons allegedly responsible over a two-year period for the theft from a motor freight company of merchandise valued at $25,000-$30,000 a month.

Garrison made the announcement in his office standing in front of a huge stack of television sets, outboard motors and other merchandise that undercover agents allegedly purchased from the ring. He said the ring stole the merchandise from the Red Ball Motor Freight Inc.

The district attorney, making one of the first public appearances since a back ailment forced him to undergo extensive treatment in late 1969, said the ring systematically stole the merchandise through juggling of invoices.

THOSE ARRESTED are:

EUGENE HARRIS, 34, no address, charged with conspiracy to commit theft.

ULYSSES BAILEY, 30, 1738 Bartholomew, charged with theft and possession of stolen goods.

JOHN H. JOHNSON, 2525 S. Galvez, charged with theft and possession of stolen merchandise.

WALTER R. FAULK, 43, 4812 Press Drive, charged with theft and possession of stolen merchandise.

SAM POOLE, 32, 2422 St. Thomas, charged with theft and possession of stolen merchandise.

ISAAC BROWN, 2124 Egania, charged with theft and possession of stolen merchandise.

JOSEPH W. SARCHET, 26, 535 Sizeler, Jefferson Parish, charged with theft and possession of stolen merchandise.

ALFRED STOLZENBERG III, 33, 4708 Clearview Parkway, Jefferson Parish, charged with theft and possession.

LOYCE KRAEMER, female, 30, 3205 Homer Street, Algiers, charged with possession of stolen goods.

Louis Ivon, chief investigator for the DA's office, said all nine, except for the Kraemer woman, worked for the Red Ball company.

IVON ALSO said additional arrests in the case will occur in the next few days. He said the ring was connected with employes of other motor freight companies who conspired with them to steal goods from their firms.

Garrison said the ring managed to steal merchandise by loading more goods than were required by the invoice on a truck. The goods then became "available" for sale through the ring.

The district attorney said his staff

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—States-Item photo.

DA JIM GARRISON with part of recovered loot.

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became aware of the availability of "hot" merchandise and assigned two undercover agents to make purchases from the ring.

He said the undercover agents did such a good job over a two-month period that, just prior to the arrests, they were making their purchases of TVs, stereos and outboard motors on credit.

GARRISON SAID that at one point the undercover agents drove a rented truck up to a Red Ball conveyor belt and members of the ring helped load merchandise on the truck.

The DA said the ring sold their "hot" merchandise at slashed prices. An $1,800 outboard motor sold for $150. A $250 television set sold for $50.

Garrison said that at one point the undercover men bought a $3,500 casket from the ring but had to forward it to a funeral home for which it originally was intended because the casket was needed for a burial.

Ivon said the nine arrested thus far and others who may be arrested also will be liable for federal charges because many of the goods they stole were in interstate commerce.

The undercover agents purchased goods worth about $7,000 wholesale during the two-month investigation.